

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (canceled)

2 (currently amended). The method according to claim 194 wherein said grouping units of information into clusters is carried out automatically to create a machine-generated cluster structure.

3 (currently amended). The method according to claim 194 wherein said modifying comprises creating at least one new information cluster defined by the user.

4 (previously presented). The method according to claim 3 wherein said modifying further comprises labeling each information cluster by the user using a user-defined symbol.

5 (previously presented). The method according to claim 4 wherein said modifying further comprises merging of at least two clusters chosen by the user.

6 (previously presented). The method according to claim 5 wherein said modifying further comprises splitting at least one cluster chosen by the user.

7 (previously presented). The method according to claim 6 wherein said modifying further comprises storing said cluster structure in a knowledge base.

8 (currently amended). The method according to claim 194 wherein said modifying comprises labeling at least one information cluster by the user using a user-defined symbol.

9 (currently amended). The method according to claim 194 wherein said modifying comprises merging of at least two information clusters chosen by the user.

10 (currently amended). The method according to claim 194 wherein said modifying comprises splitting of at least one information cluster chosen by the user.

11 (currently amended). The method according to claim 194 wherein said modifying comprises storing said cluster structure in a knowledge base.

12 (currently amended). The method according to claim 194 wherein said information comprises text, image, audio, video or any combination thereof.

13 (canceled)

14 (currently amended). The method according to claim 194 wherein said user-configurable information clustering system incorporates user knowledge and preferences for information clustering.

15 (currently amended). The method according to claim 194 wherein said user-configurable

information clustering system further comprises a user interface to provide for viewing and manipulating said cluster structure.

16 (currently amended). The method according to claim 19 wherein each of said units of information is represented by an information vector.

17 (currently amended). The method according to claim 19 wherein a user-preferred information grouping is represented by a preference vector.

18 (canceled)

19 (currently amended). ~~The method according to claim 18~~ A method of organizing information into a plurality of classes or clusters with a user-configurable information clustering system comprising:

a) grouping units of information into clusters based on similarities to create a cluster structure; and

b) modifying said cluster structure by a user according to user knowledge and preferences, wherein

said units of information are grouped into classes or clusters based on a similarity function, and

said classes or clusters have a coarseness which is controlled by a baseline vigilance parameter.

20 (currently amended). ~~The method according to claim 1 further comprising~~ A method of organizing information into a plurality of classes or clusters with a user-configurable information clustering system comprising:

grouping units of information into clusters based on similarities to create a cluster structure;
modifying said cluster structure by a user according to user knowledge and preferences; and
indicating, by a user, of a preference for a lower baseline vigilance parameter by
selecting at least one unit of information from each of at least two clusters wherein the selected units of information are deemed by the user to be similar to each other.

21 (currently amended). ~~The method according to claim 1 further comprising~~ A method of organizing information into a plurality of classes or clusters with a user-configurable information clustering system comprising:

grouping units of information into clusters based on similarities to create a cluster structure;
modifying said cluster structure by a user according to user knowledge and preferences; and
indication indicating, by a user, of a preference for a higher baseline vigilance parameter by selecting at least two units of information in a cluster, wherein said units of information are deemed by the user to be dissimilar to each other.

22 (currently amended). The method according to claim ~~19~~ further comprising retrieving said cluster structure to initialize said user-configurable information clustering system prior to clustering new information.

23-27(canceled).

28 (currently amended). The system according to claim ~~47~~ wherein said information clustering engine automatically clusters information to create a machine-generated cluster structure.

29 (currently amended). The system according to claim ~~47~~ wherein said personalization module comprises

means for creating at least one new information cluster defined by the user.

30 (previously presented). The system according to claim 29 wherein said personalization module further comprises means for labeling at least one information cluster by the user using a user-defined symbol.

31 (previously presented). The system according to claim 30 wherein said personalization module further comprises means for merging at least two information clusters chosen by the user.

32 (previously presented). The system according to claim 31 wherein said personalization module further comprises means for splitting at least one information cluster chosen by the user.

33 (original). The system according to claim 32 wherein said personalization module further comprises means for storing the cluster structure in said knowledge base.

34 (original). The system according to claim 33 wherein said personalization module further comprises means for retrieving the cluster structure from said knowledge base.

35 (currently amended). The system according to claim ~~47~~ wherein said personalization module comprises means for labeling at least one information cluster by the user using a user-defined symbol.

36 (currently amended). The system according to claim ~~47~~ wherein said personalization

module comprises means for merging at least two information clusters chosen by the user.

37 (currently amended). The system according to claim ~~4727~~ wherein said personalization module comprises means for splitting at least one information cluster chosen by the user.

38 (currently amended). The system according to claim ~~4727~~ wherein said personalization module comprises means for storing the cluster structure in said knowledge base.

39 (currently amended). The system according to claim ~~4727~~ wherein said personalization module comprises means for retrieving the cluster structure from said knowledge base.

40 (currently amended). The system according to claim ~~4727~~ wherein said information comprises text, image, audio, video or any combination thereof.

41 (currently amended). The system according to claim ~~4727~~ wherein user knowledge and preferences are incorporated in information clustering.

42 (canceled)

43 (currently amended). The system according to claim ~~4727~~ wherein said user interface permits graphical visualization of said information clusters to provide for viewing and manipulating said cluster structure.

44 (currently amended). The system according to claim ~~4727~~ wherein each of said units of information is represented by an information vector.

45 (currently amended). The system according to claim ~~4727~~ wherein a user-preferred information grouping is represented by a preference vector.

46 (canceled).

47 (currently amended). ~~The system according to claim 46~~ A user-configurable information clustering system comprising:

a) an information clustering engine for clustering units of information based on similarities to create a cluster structure;

b) a personalization module for modifying said cluster structure by a user according to user knowledge and preferences;

c) a user interface; and

d) a knowledge base for storing said cluster structure, wherein

said units of information are grouped into classes or clusters based on a similarity function,

and

said classes or clusters have a coarseness which is controlled by a baseline vigilance parameter.

48 (currently amended). ~~The system according to claim 27~~ A user-configurable information clustering system comprising:

a) an information clustering engine for clustering units of information based on similarities to create a cluster structure;

b) a personalization module for modifying said cluster structure by a user according to user knowledge and preferences;

c) a user interface; and

d) a knowledge base for storing said cluster structure, wherein

said personalization module permits indication by a user of a preference for a lower baseline vigilance parameter by selecting at least one unit of information from each of at least two clusters wherein said selected units of information are deemed by the user to be similar to each other.

49 (currently amended). ~~The system according to claim 27~~ A user-configurable information clustering system comprising:

a) an information clustering engine for clustering units of information based on similarities to create a cluster structure;

b) a personalization module for modifying said cluster structure by a user according to user knowledge and preferences;

c) a user interface; and

d) a knowledge base for storing said cluster structure, wherein

said personalization module permits indication by a user of a preference for a higher baseline vigilance parameter by selecting at least two units of information in a cluster, wherein said units of information are deemed by the user to be dissimilar to each other.

50-53 (canceled).